



Harold Court Primary
School



Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

Consultation on the Proposed Establishment of a Nursery Provision at Harold Court Primary School



Consultation on the Proposed Establishment of a Nursery Provision at Harold Court Primary School

Introduction

Harold Court Primary School is seeking to open a 30 place Nursery Provision for 3 - 4 year olds and this consultation sets out the plan to implement this proposal. In order to establish a Nursery, it is necessary for the school to change the age range for which the school can cater for, from 4-11 years old to 3-11 years old.

This is an exciting opportunity that would enable the school to provide Early Education and Childcare places to children aged 3 and 4 years old prior to their entry to school.

The purpose of this consultation is to provide information about our proposal and seek the views of Harold Court families and the wider community.

Background

For several years, Harold Court Primary School has leased part of its space to Aardvark Day Nursery and Pre-School, an independently managed setting that accommodated up to 28 children at a time. Following its closure, this has led to a shortfall in available places in the area. This presents a valuable opportunity for Harold Court Primary School to establish its own Nursery Provision, making full use of existing space while leveraging its expertise in Early Years Foundation Stage education.

Proposal

The proposed Nursery Provision will be based where the previous Day Nursery was situated adjacent to the school. The old Children Centre building will be demolished and replaced by a modular unit for the Nursery Provision.

The curriculum, planning, provision and pupils' progress will be overseen and line-managed by the school's Senior Leadership Team.

It is proposed that the Harold Court Nursery would open in September 2025.

Reasons for Opening a Nursery Provision

'We believe that having a positive start to education will last our children a lifetime.' A Nursery at the school would give the children opportunities to learn and grow in an environment that values them as individuals and will give them a smooth transition into starting school. In the Nursery the children will be able to start to learn and develop the skills needed to ensure that they are successful learners; including social awareness, play, communication and language skills.

Typically, children join the school well-below age related expectations, however, with a Nursery on site the school would be able to support children's development and give them robust learning opportunities to ensure that they are 'school ready' and have the same starting points as their peers across the country.

Harold Court Primary School is a two-form entry Primary School located on Church Road, Romford. In its last Ofsted inspection in November 2022, Harold Court Primary School retained its 'Good' Ofsted grading. The school wishes to contribute to and support the Government's scheme to support more parents and family members returning to work after their parental leave ends. In addition, the benefits to the school, the children and the local community include:

- A more comprehensive transition from Nursery to Reception to support a smoother start to school life for our Reception children who currently join us from several different nurseries.
- Early identification of vulnerable families so that early help and support can be implemented more quickly.
- Early identification of SEND needs which can subsequently be addressed earlier and appropriate support put in place.
- A continuity of provision which reflects our vision and ethos.
- To better ensure a full cohort of 60 children in our Reception year, supporting the school financially, which in turn benefits the whole school community.
- Respond to expressions of interest in a Nursery from current and prospective families.
- Provide continuity of provision from 3 to 11 years for our families.
- Optimise the use of our facilities and capitalise on our expert knowledge of the Early Years' Foundation Stage provision.
- Provide employment opportunities and continuing professional development for current staff.

Responding to the Consultation

Harold Court Primary School welcomes the support of the local community that it serves. This is an opportunity for parents, family members, staff and the local community who have an interest in the school to respond to the proposal.

The consultation period starts on **Monday 24 February 2025** and will end on **Monday 24 March 2025**.

You can share your views on this proposal by scanning the QR Code or by clicking on the following link:

<https://consultation.havering.gov.uk/education/nursery-provision-at-harold-court>



If you have any other questions regarding this proposal, please contact the Acting Headteacher, Wendy Donnelly Symes on 01708 342275 or email office@haroldcourt.org.uk.

What Happens Next?

This is an opportunity to express your views and ask questions regarding the proposal to add a Nursery class at Harold Court Primary School during the pre-statutory consultation period.

The pre-statutory consultation period starts on **Monday 24 February 2025** and will close on **Monday 24 March 2025**.

A separate planning consultation will take place to consider build and design.

All responses will be considered after the consultation ends on **Monday 24 March 2025**. If the Council then decides to proceed to the statutory stage of the process, it will publish a statutory notice and other information in **April 2025**, followed by a four week 'representation period' during which there will be a final chance to express views. Subject to the outcome of the representation period, the Council intends to make a final decision on the proposal by **June 2025** for implementation from **September 2025**.

Statutory Timeline

Key Milestones	Date
Pre-statutory consultation period	24 Feb – 24 March 2025
Statutory Stage 1 – Publication of Statutory Notices	25th April 2025
Statutory Stage 2 – Representation Period	4 weeks following the date of the statutory notice publication
Statutory Stage 3 - Decision on proposals by the Local Authority	June 2025
Statutory Stage 4 - Implementation	September 2025

This consultation document is being sent electronically to all parents/carers, governors, teachers and support staff of Harold Court Primary School.

Electronic copies are also being sent to all the borough schools, ward members, MPs, Church Dioceses, all Early Years provision, community groups, unions and other stakeholders.